Faculty Profile

Winston Churchill once observed that at first we shape our environments and then our environments shape us. This is the kind of thinking that has influenced Dr. Jon Pynoos’ philosophy about aging and the environment.

As the co-director of the Fall Prevention Center of Excellence, he has been a life-long advocate for universal design. Dr. Pynoos has devoted his life to developing programs and policies that allow older people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. “Most of the housing we live in today is ‘Peter Pan’ housing; it’s designed for people who are never going to grow up and never grow old,” he said.

As the UPS Foundation Chair of Gerontology, Policy, Planning, and Development, Dr. Pynoos plays a major role in federal, state, and local policymaking pertaining to housing and older Americans. Dr. Pynoos was a delegate to the last three White House Conferences on Aging and is currently a member of the City of Los Angeles Task Force on Aging and the California Commission on Aging.

When he’s not spending his time conducting policy research, Dr. Pynoos is also a member of the National Endowment for the Arts and has an impressive art collection including a set of hand-crafted canes from around the world.

“These canes show us how something extremely functional can also be beautiful,” he said.

Jon Pynoos, Ph.D.
UPS Foundation Chair of Gerontology, Policy, Planning and Development